GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1822
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
ARYA Scheme
Ering Shri Ninong;Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa;Singh Shri Bharatendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has launched a training programme to involve rural youths in bee keeping, dairying, fisheries through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the ARYA scheme (Attracting and Retaining youth in Agriculture) in the country;

(b) if so, salient features of the scheme;

(c) the number of rural youths trained during each of the last three years in each State/UT along with funds earmarked for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government is also promoting awareness amongst students regarding agricultural practices and crops and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the various steps taken by the Government to involve more youths from North-Eastern States of the country in agriculture profession?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c): Realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development, Government has initiated a programme on "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture". The objectives of ARYA project are (i) to attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts; (ii) to enable the Farm Youth to establish network groups to take up resource and capital intensive activities like processing, value addition and marketing; and (iii) to demonstrate functional linkage with different institutions and stakeholders for convergence of opportunities available under various schemes/program for sustainable development of youth. ARYA project will be implemented in 22 States through KVKs, one district from each State. In one district, 200-300 rural youths will be identified for their skill development in entrepreneurial activities and establishment of related micro-enterprise units. The trained youth groups will function as role model for other youths and will demonstrate the potentiality of the agri-based enterprises and also give training to other farmers. In the project district, rural youths will be identified for their skill development in entrepreneurial activities and establishment of related micro-enterprise units in the area of Apiary, Mushroom, Seed Processing, Soil testing, Poultry, Dairy, Goatry, Carp-hatchery, Vermi-compost, etc. KVKs will involve the Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes as Technology Partners. The purpose is to establish economic models for youth in the villages in the area of agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for generating sustainable income through self-employment.

(d) Under the sub-component Student READY of the Plan Scheme; "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India", the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) provides an opportunity to the students to understand the rural setting in relation to agriculture and allied activities and make them familiar with socio-economic conditions of the farmers and their problems with reference to agricultural development. The programme imparts diagnostic and remedial knowledge to the students relevant to real field situations through practical training, leading to building of confidence and competence among the students to solve agricultural problems and also acquaint them with ongoing extension and rural development programmes.

(e) To involve more youths from North-Eastern States of the country in agricultural profession under ARYA scheme, KVK-Senapati in Manipur, KVK-Wokha in Nagaland, KVK-Karbi Anglong in Assam, and KVK-Lunglei in Mizoram are enabling youths in establishing entrepreneurial units.
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